

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1-17 are pending in the action. Claim 1 is an independent claim, with claims 2-8 depending from it. Claims 9 and 10 are independent claims, with claims 11-16 depending from them. Claim 17 is an independent claim.

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's Office Action of October 10, 2003. The following is a brief summary of the Action:

Claims 1-3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for alleged anticipation by Belgian reference #529,802.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness in view of De La Cruz, U. S. Patent No. 4,906,503.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness in view of Belgian reference #529,802 in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 965,097.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness in view of Belgian reference #529,802.

Claims 9, and 11 as dependent from claim 9, 14 as dependent from 9, 15 as dependent from 9, and 16 as dependent from 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness over the Belgian reference in view of Born, U.S. Patent No. 1,751,614.

Claim 12 as dependent from claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness over the Belgian reference in view of Born, in further view of De La Cruz.

Claim 13 as dependent from claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness over the Belgian reference in view of Born, in further view of Fisher.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for alleged obviousness over the Belgian reference in view of Doering, U.S. Patent No. 2,125,994.

Claims 10, and 11 through 16 as dependent from claim 10, are allowed. There are no objections either to the drawings or to the specification.

Applicants have canceled claims 1 through 9 and 17, without prejudice, and have amended claims 11 through 14. In consideration of these amendments, Applicants urge that claims 10 and 11 through 16 as dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

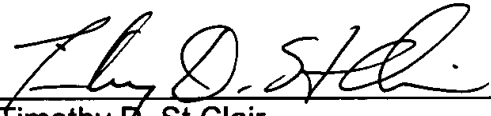
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues have been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is complete condition for issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain after consideration of the within response, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his convenience. If any fee beyond that submitted herewith, or any extension of time is required to obtain entry of the Amendment, the undersigned hereby petitions the

Commissioner to grant any necessary time extension and authorizes charging Deposit
Account 04-1403 for any such fees not submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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